



# MONTSAYE ACADEMY NEWS

December 2022



What a wonderful testament to a fantastic term at Montsaye Academy so far this year.

This once again is a reminder of the wealth of opportunities that are on offer to our children inside and outside of the classroom. None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff, all of whom go out of their way to ensure that these opportunities are possible. A big thank you once again to team Montsaye.

It is my pleasure to be the head teacher of such a great school. Our children are incredible; they are polite, great advocates for our community and working really well. They demonstrate our ERA (Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration) values day in day out. I am so incredibly proud of their achievements. This dedication is reflected in a record amount of ERA points this year!

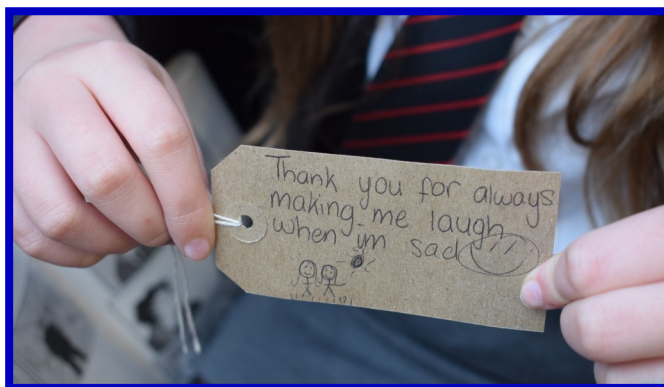
To our community, we are continuing to work relentlessly for your children, I thank you for your support and kindness.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

**Meena Gabbi - Principal**

## Celebrating Positive Noticing Day

Staff and students alike recently celebrated Positive Noticing Day. It was a chance for everyone to get involved in peer-to-peer positive noticing and it created a real buzz around the academy. Everyone was given a tag and asked to write a message



some really lovely words on them. Everyone enjoyed giving and receiving the messages; what wonderful students and staff we have here at Montsaye Academy!



to a classmate, friend or member of staff whom they had noticed doing or saying something positive. Tags were given out left, right and centre; there were



**Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator**

## Montsaye ERA days are the best days...

Our ERA days continue to go from strength to strength.

The Year 11 day took place back in October with our students participating in a wide variety of engaging and important activities designed to help them with their final KS4 journey.

Amongst the sessions which took place, students could be found listening to careers advice from Ian Doherty, our careers advisor, who was looking at post-16 options. There was an exciting performance and workshop 'Calling it Out' delivered by Loudmouth Productions, which explored healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to stay safe. One of the highlights of the day was a visit by a company who supplied a four-sided climbing wall for our students to test themselves on.



And then it was the turn of Year 8; designed to promote the health and wellbeing of our students. Our key message was on being kind and on how to help eradicate unkind behaviour in our community. We were supported by the 'Takeaway Theatre Company' who performed their play 'Hope'; the story of a beautiful and successful pop star who returns to her home town after many years. The play looked at abuse and bullying and is a story of courage, self-empowerment and redemption.



Students also took part in a range of activities aimed to build emotional resilience; they looked at career aspirations and developed their confidence to challenge unwanted behaviours. There were Q&A tasks, and a session on 'Banter vs Bullying', as well as deeper exploration into how to be an up-stander, which led directly on from the play.

Our much anticipated ERA days create a real energy around the academy. It is wonderful to see our students interacting with each other outside of their regular curriculum-based learning.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator



## Students rewarded for 100% Attendance

Over the course of the last few weeks, progress leaders have been celebrating 100% attendance with their year group.



Year 9 students enjoying their just rewards...

Early morning hot chocolate and doughnuts have been a welcome start to the school day during form time. Students earned the treat by registering 100% attendance during the first half term of this academic year, running from 3rd September to 14th October.



...and Year 7 too

We look forward to being able to hold many more of these events as the school year progresses.

**Claire Petchey (Year 9 Progress Leader) and Fran George (Year 7 Progress Leader)**

## Continuing on a theme of sweet treats...

Our Year 10 GCSE food students have been honing their baking skills and cooking profiteroles. We think you'll agree, they look good enough to eat.



**Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food Technology**

## Students enjoy life in the fast lane

An excited group of Year 8 students recently enjoyed a visit to Silverstone Interactive Museum and what an experience it was.

Investigating design in motorsport, students worked their way through the interactive museum and took part in a workshop, learning about the variety of jobs which are available within the industry. They looked at a racing car and its many different components; discovered what they are made of, how many hours it takes to create them and how much they cost. The group were excited to handle lots of different pieces of equipment, including tyres, an exhaust, a fuel tank and a rear wing.



Students were also given the opportunity to walk on part of the track and to watch an interactive film involving racing around the track, which was absolutely amazing.

Everyone enjoyed the hands-on experience; climbing both on and in the different vehicles and also being able to try on some of the race suits.

Lots of fantastic questions were being asked by the students; let's hope we have some budding race drivers in our Year 8 cohort. All in all, it was a very successful day out.

**Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Product Design**

## BBC Share your Story

To mark their 100 year anniversary, the BBC have been holding interactive live assemblies for secondary school students across the UK.

We were lucky enough to be able to welcome the BBC team to the academy on Thursday 17th November. We were delighted to be able to share the experience with our students in Year 7 to Year 10.

The team explained how telling our stories can help us to develop greater resilience, something which is close to our hearts here at Montsaye Academy.



Hosted by television presenter and entertainment reporter, Jodie McCallum, students listened intently to stories of personal journeys from Chris Regan (a BBC researcher) and Michelle-Lee Young (a BBC senior advisor). We would like to extend our thanks to the BBC for such an informative session.



## Budding artists rising to the challenge in Black History Month



As part of our celebrations of October's Black History Month, in an initiative organised by our Community and Equality Ambassadors, we launched a poster competition. The brief was to think outside of the box and to do something which has never been seen before, using creative minds to make an artistic masterpiece. Our students certainly rose to the challenge.

We are delighted to share with you, the winning posters for the competition, which are currently on display for all to see. Well done to everyone who took part and for all of your hard work.

**Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator**



**Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator**

## The winning team...

We are so very proud of our winning Year 11 futsal team.

Having not lost a game this year, the boys recently beat Brooke Weston Academy 4-1 in a cup final match held at Latimer Arts College, to become Kettering Futsal Champions.



Coming back from an early goal, Destiny scored two goals, Charlie one and Raymond one. Such a fantastic achievement and a true example of our ERA values of **Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration**.

Tim Wing - Head of PE

## Big journeys begin with small steps



Ex-Montsaye student and now street/hip hop dance teacher, JJ, has recently been involved with us in the running of two street dance workshops for some of our boys. JJ works at Starlight Dance and Musical Theatre School in Kettering and we are extremely grateful to him for his time.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. We look forward to being able to hold more of the workshops in the future.



Fran George - Teacher of Dance

## A wonderful evening of dance



Presented by Montsaye Dance Company (MDC), our students recently performed a wonderful evening of powerful, emotional, fun and sassy dance. Showcasing our talented dancers, the audience were treated to fifteen separate performances, culminating in a grand finale, directed and choreographed by A-Level dance student Madeline G., which involved the whole cast.

MDC is our touring dance group. The company members have all shown commitment to dance within lessons and extra-curricular sessions and have been given the opportunity to represent the academy across a variety of events. Last year, Montsaye Dance Company successfully auditioned and performed at DanceEast regional platform. This year, we hope to attend again and perform at more venues within our local community too.

Fran George - Teacher of Dance



## Accelerated Reader Millionaires are off to a good start...

Our Accelerated Reader Millionaires are off to a flying start and we are pleased to be able to share with you the names of the students who have qualified since the start of this academic year in September:

Year	Student Name	Form	No. of Books	No. of Words Read
Year 7	Olivia R.	7LEB	6	1,022,744
Year 9	Dorothea G.	9NMA	10	1,036,672
Year 9	Daniel A.	9AJ0	12	1,047,940

Here we have Olivia and Daniel, proudly showing their certificates



Mandy Lantz - Librarian

## Our CCF needs you...

My name is Joe Smyth and I would like to introduce myself to you all as Montsaye's new CCF School Staff Instructor.



**Who knew  
mucking in  
could feel  
this good?**

Take on an Army obstacle course.  
Go on exciting expeditions.  
Develop your leadership.

The best experiences of your life are waiting.  
Get stuck in at Combined Cadet Force.

We are now looking to recruit additional Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAV) to help on a Thursday after school 3.00pm-5.00pm and occasionally for exercises at the weekend.

Full training is given by the CFAV. Qualifications can be gained in a variety of disciplines, including first aid. Please visit the CFAV website for more information:  
[www.adultvolunteer.org](http://www.adultvolunteer.org).

Whilst this is a volunteer role, some remuneration is provided by the army to cover expenses.

If you require further information, please contact me on: [jsmyth@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:jsmyth@montsaye.northants.sch.uk).

Joe Smyth - CCF School Staff Instructor

## Montsaye Sixth Form - the place to be!



### Introducing...

Amalia and Edward, our two newly appointed Deputy Student Leaders. Amalia and Edward will be working closely with Franco, Lone and Sam on the Student Leadership team over the next few months.

**Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager**



## New...Sixth Form Café

A new half term dawned and saw our Year 12 and Year 13 students (and staff too) enjoying their newly installed café bar. The café, which is run by our contracted catering company, ABM, is based in the sixth form centre and serves hot and cold food, as well as cold drinks. It is open for breakfast at 7.30am and also at break and lunch time. Running as part of our cashless catering system, accounts can currently be topped up by ScoPay but a contactless card facility is on the way in the not too distant future.



Among the delicious treats on offer are sausage rolls, bacon rolls, Belgian waffles and pastries. We have everyone queueing up for more...

**Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager**

## Do not disturb, recording in progress...

Our A-Level music students were recently fortunate enough to be able to visit Brickwork Studios in Market Harborough. It was a wonderful morning; the students had fun learning about the wide range of equipment involved in the recording process and exploring the efficiency of the 'Flanking Path' of sound within the studio building. Demonstrating a detailed understanding of the workings of a studio-based PA and recording system is a key element in our exam unit MUSPRA333 which is part of the RSL Level 3 diploma in Music.

Huge thanks go to Martin from Brickwork Studios for having us and for running such an informative session.

**Natalie Gardner - Head of Music**





## Real chemistry takes place at Pathfinder primary schools

Recently, our Year 13 chemistry students visited some of our Pathfinder primary schools to give the Year 6 students a taster lesson in chemistry. Our older students were able to demonstrate what can be expected at Montsaye in KS3 and beyond into the science GCSE curriculum.

In the experiments, students reacted a selection of chemicals and measured the temperature change using a thermometer. From this, the younger students were able to see if the reaction was endothermic or exothermic. The whole experience was very well received; the KS2 specification does not allow much study into what the students consider to be 'real science', in particular, chemistry. This is because more specialist equipment, training and chemicals are needed compared to studying biology and physics.

We carefully set up the activities to allow the students to use unfamiliar equipment in a safe environment and were able to discuss safety and good laboratory practice.



We are looking forward to being able to offer this type of activity again in the future, to ensure that we instil a love of science, and in particular chemistry, to our future Montsaye students. I also think the staff at Loatlands Primary School and Rothwell Junior School had a great time too, so I am sure that they will also be requesting a return visit at some point.

Year 13 students, Francesco, Ellie, Mia, Brandon and Ryan found the experience very enjoyable. It allowed them to mentor and inspire younger pupils to study science further at Montsaye. Franco said that the younger students were very keen to get involved and were confident enough to offer responses.

**Lucy Cooper - Teacher of Chemistry**

Montsaye Community Sports Centre have some excellent value parent/guardian and student membership packages available.

See below for full details:

## MONTSAYE ACADEMY PARENT/ GUARDIAN MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Now at the discounted rate of **£19** per month for a Gym Membership or **£24** per month for Gym/Swim Membership.

Be *Happy*. Be *Active*. Be *Here*!

**FREE**  
ACCESS TO GYM  
**FREE** CLASSES  
**FREE** INDUCTION/  
PROGRAMME



Montsaye  ACADEMY  
Excellence Resilience Aspiration



M C S C

**MONTSAYE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE**

For more information tel: **01536 713708** or email:  
[sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk](mailto:sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk)

## MONTSAYE ACADEMY STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE (AGES 11-16)\*

Now at the discounted rate of **£16** per month for a Gym Membership or **£21** per month for Gym/Swim Membership.

Be *Happy*. Be *Active*. Be *Here*!

**FREE**  
ACCESS TO GYM &  
**FREE**  
INDUCTION/  
PROGRAMME



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M C S C

**MONTSAYE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE**

For more information tel: **01536 713708** or email:  
[sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk](mailto:sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk)

\*U16's must be accompanied by a responsible adult (18 years+).